

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /063 W

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R 051438Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4320

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABAB 5263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS SO FR ET

SUBJECT: FRENCH MINISTER'S VISIT TO TFAI

1. THE FRENCH MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES VISITED DJIBOUTI WOOK OF APRIL 27. PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO DEMONSTRATE FRENCH INTEREST IN PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY. THE SLOGAN FOR THE VISIT WAS "FRIENDSHIP, PROGRESS AND SOLIDARITY."
2. EMBOFF, WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN DJIBOUTI AT THE SAME TIME, NOTED HEAVY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, INCLUDING TRUCKS FILLED WITH ARMED FOREGIN LEGION PARATROOPERS IN FULL BATTLE GEAR. AFTER MIDNIGHT ARMED RADIO JEEPS PATROLLED MAJOR INTERSECTIONS.
3. THE MAYOR OF DJIBOUTI WAS INJURED IN A VIOLENT PRO-SOMALI ATREET DEMONSTRATION APRIL 30. HIS COLLAR BONE AND FOUR RIBS WERE BROKEN AS HE TRIED TO CALM ANTI-FRENCH DEMONSTRATORS.
4. IN A MAJOR SPEECH, THE FRENCH MINISTER REITERATED FRENCH CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY. AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THIS CONCERN, NEWLY BEGUN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS WERE TO BE SEEN IN AND AROUND DJIBOUTI.

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5. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ALONG THE TFAI-SOMALI BORDER REMAIN

STRINGENT. FRENCH TANKS, COMMAND POSTS AND, AT NIGHT, FLOOD LIGHTS FACE THE BORDER. (BY CONTRAST, THERE IS ALMOST A TOTAL LACK OF SECURITY ON THE ETHIOPIAN-TFAI BORDER.) AT NIGHT, SHOOTING IS OCCASIONALLY HEARD AS LEGIONAIRES BORDER GUARDS DISCOURAGE SOMALIS FROM ENTERING THE DJIBOUTI PERIMETER.

6. COMMENT: FRENCH SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ARE ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY NECESSARY. THE POSSIBILITY OF EMPLOYMENT IN DJIBOUTI AND LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE TFAI VIS-A-VIS THOSE IN SOMALIA ATTRACT MANY SOMALIS. IF NOT CONTROLLED, THESE SOMALIS WOULD SOON EXACERBATE THE ALREADY DIFFICULT UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION. IN ADDITION, THEY WOULD SOON OUTNUMBER THE AFAR WHO, IN COOPERATION WITH THE FRENCH, CONTROL LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TFAI. THE FRENCH ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED BY RECENT SOMALI STATEMENTS URGING INDEPENDENCE FOR THE TFAI. IT WAS APPARENT, HOWEVER, THAT FOR THE PRESENT THE FRENCH ARE DEMONSTRATING THEIR FIRM COMMITMENT TO REMAINING IN DJIBOUTI.  
HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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